

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 487

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GE

SUBJECT: IREX-GDR EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 045893

1. IREX TEAM CAME TO EMBASSY SATURDAY MORNING TO TYPE UP FINAL VERSION OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED IN TWO DAYS OF "TOUGH" NEGOTIATION". AGREEMENT CALLS FOR 40 MAN MONTH PROGRAM OVER TWO-YEAR PERIOD, WHICH REPRESENTS GDR PROPOSAL FOR 20-MAN MONTH ANNUAL PROGRAM AND FALLS SHORT OF IREX MANIMUM GOAL OF 75-MAN MONTH BEGINNING TWO-YEAR PROGRAM.

2. IREX TEAM CAME TO EMBASSY BEFORE FINAL SESSION FRIDAY AFTERNOON TO REPORT THAT NEGOTIATIONS THREATENED TO FOUNDER ON GDR INSISTENCE ON EXCHANGE OF FINAL AGREEMENT DOCUMENT BETWEEN GDR EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER COVER OF LETTER APPROVING EXCHANGE. GDR SIDE APPEARED STRONGLY COMMITTED TO OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION AND APPROVAL OF EXCHANGE, WHEREAS IREX RIGHTLY INSISTED THAT, AS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, IT COULD NOT COMMIT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ANY ACTION.

3. ALTHOUGH IREX ATTEMPTED TO AVOID ANY MENTION OF DEPARTMENT IN TEXT, TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH INCLUSION FOLLOWING NON-COMMITAL WORDING:

"THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
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AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXCHANGES BOARD

AGREE TO SUBMIT COPIES OF THIS PROTOCOL TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RESPECTIVELY, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IN WASHINGTON AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO EXCHANGE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THIS PROTOCOL AS THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE."

4. EMBASSY AND IREX BELIEVE THAT SUCH WORDING, WHILE NOT COMMITTING THE DEPARTMENT TO ANY ACTION, WOULD LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY FOR A FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN CU/WE DIRECTORY STRAUS AND GDR EMBOFF DAMP AT WHICH LETTER SIMILAR TO THAT DESCRIBED IN STATE 275288, STATING THAT IREX IS "FAVORABLY KNOWN" TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WELCOMING THIS BEGINNING OF "PRIVATE EXCHANGES" ON THE PATTERN EXISTING IN OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, COULD BE GIVEN TO DAMP. IREX TEAM BELIEVES THAT THIS AND POSSIBLE SIMPLY EXCHANGE OF COPIES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN STRAUS AND DAMP WITHOUT FURTHER SIGNATURE OR ADO, WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ACHIEVE GDR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT, WHICH NECESSARY FOR FINAL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.

5. PROVISIONS OF THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT PROVIDE FOR IREX-DESIRED INCREASE IN STIPENDS FROM EASTMARK 370 TO 500 FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS, 500 TO 570 FOR JUNIOR SCHOLARS, AND 500 TO 700 FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS.

6 RE HOUSING, IREX AGREED TO SEND NO GRANTEES WITH FAMILIES DURING FIRST YEAR, ALTHOUGH FAMILIES MAY VISIT GRANTEE AT THIS EXPENSE. TEXT PROVIDES AGREEMENT BY JANUARY OF 1976 ON FAMILY HOUSING OR IREX HAS RIGHT TO TERMINATE EXCHANGE.

7. IREX SUCCESSFULLY REJECTED MFA ATTEMPT TO INCLUDE CLAUSE GRANTING SPECIAL LEGAL PROTECTION TO GDR GRANTEES IN U.S. AGAINST PERSONAL OR PROPERTY LOSS.

8. FINALLY, IREX ACHIEVED FOR FIRST TIME IN SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT A 50 PERCENT CEILING FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL GRANTS.

9. GDR NEGOTIATORS WERE: DR. BERNDT HOELZER, DR. LUTZ BETTIN AND FRAU FNU KETTNER OF THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND DR WILLY HOFFMANN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

10 IREX WILL DELIVER TEXT OF TENTATIVE AGREEMENT TO
DEPARTMENT NEXT WEEK AND REPRESENTATIVE WILL COME TO
WASHINGTON FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION ASAP.COOPER

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